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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES TOUGHER PENALTIES FOR LITTERING**

Today the Chicago City Council approved key amendments to the City's Municipal Code, introduced by Alderman Howard Brookins (21<sup>st</sup> Ward), targeting persons who intentionally discard trash and other items onto the public way. The changes will triple the minimum fine amount; increase the maximum fine that can be imposed; and allows law enforcement to impound vehicles of persons age 16 and above found to have tossed refuse from moving or stationary vehicles.

"The negative impact of chronic littering on the character of our City neighborhoods is tremendous, and the changes put forth in this amended ordinance send a powerful message that we will not tolerate this completely unnecessary and careless act," said Mayor Emanuel.

The amendment increases the minimum and maximum fines for each occurrence, from a range from \$50 to \$200, to \$150 to \$1,500 for each offense. For persons age 16 and above who commit this offense in a moving or stationary vehicle, Chicago Police are directed to impose a \$1,500 fine as well as impound the vehicle, creating a powerful deterrent and potentially improving the look of neighborhoods across the City.

Categories of litter include: picnic and eating utensils such as paper plates and cups; liquid or beverage containers such as beer, soft drinks and juice cans; tobacco and confection wrappers such as cigarette packages, candy and ice cream wrappers; food wastes such as fruit or vegetable peelings, leftovers or other table waste; newspapers, books, handbills, pamphlets or notices/papers of any type; or other types of rubbish, garbage, refuse material or articles such as discarded clothing, boxes or ashes.

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